

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important news affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, commercial and financial fields, and such other information which will benefit the trade union movement.

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EXPLOITERS DRAIN PORTO RICO; POVERTY AND IDLENESS IS RULE

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 20.—The exploitation of Porto Rico has brought such suffering and degradation that even American capitalists are alarmed. Their political agents would drug poverty-stricken workers by permitting them to elect the governor of the island. That official is now appointed by the president of the United States.

The workers are not interested in political changes, as they recall last year's elections when the representatives of the big sugar and banana plantations bludgeoned and jailed voters who opposed their state.

These exploiters and imperialists have pauperized the people and are draining the island of its wealth. Sales taxes have been imposed upon hungry workers, and income tax has been reduced. Even the corporations refuse to pay. They owe more than \$4,000,000.

OIL GRABBERS LOSE; INDICTMENT UPHELD

Washington, Feb. 20.—The Elk Hills and Teapot Dome oil grabbers received another jolt in the District of Columbia criminal court when Judge Stanford sustained the indictment against Albert C. Fall, former secretary of the interior, and Edward Doheny, in one count of the indictment.

The government charges that Fall received an agreement from the oil companies to transfer oil and gas lands to them in consideration of money and loans, and to accomplish such purpose by trickery and dishonest means.

Fall signed the leases by virtue of an executive order, and in defiance of the control of the oil lands from Secretary of the Interior.

"It is now agreed," said Justice Stafford, "that this order was null and void, because congress had entrusted the power to the secretary of the navy alone."

The defendants finally accepted this verdict, but they will appeal. Fall had no legal authority to act, any attempt by him to make the leases null and void would not be considered.

WILL FINANCE HOMES FOR TRADE UNIONS

Chicago, Feb. 20.—The Building Trades Council of this city has organized the Illinois Federation of Building Workers. Officers of the union will be active in the promotion of the building of homes for trade unionists.

The corporation will start business with a capital stock valued at \$500,000. The building will be located on 10,000,000 acres of land.

It is planned at first to finance the building of small homes. Later the plan will be to build larger homes.

Interest rates on loans will be 6 per cent, plus a small commission. The loans will be made to trade unionists at lower rates than banks can give.

WRECK BLAME PLACED

Washington, Feb. 20.—A collision between two Atlantic Coast Line passenger trains, which occurred on December 1, was caused by the negligence of the Interstate Commerce Commission report. There were four deaths and 25 injuries.

The Coast Line is attempting to operate its telegraphic department with telegraphers. Members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers are on strike.

Foe Of Working Women's Statutes Linked Up With Other Standpatters

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 20.—The speech of John E. Edgerly, a leader of the National Manufacturers' association, at the recent women's conference in Washington, has brought much adverse publicity.

David Hanly, legislative chairman of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, leads in the criticism. In a public statement, he said that the women's conference in Washington, has brought much adverse publicity.

SENATE BLOC CUTS RICH MEN'S TAXES

Washington, Feb. 20.—Party lines were smashed in the senate when that body reduced income taxes, and Secretary Mellon won his long fight. Opponents of the bill insist it is a "rich man's measure."

Last year 5,694 persons reported income of \$100,000 or more. Under the new bill these citizens will profit to the extent of \$154,000,000. Taxpayers among the other 110,000,000 of population will save but \$103,000,000.

During the fight to make the wealthy bear their share of taxes the senate's special committee that is investigating the internal revenue bureau presented sensational evidence to show how wealthy taxpayers avoid taxes.

When other members of congress ignore party lines and vote for a reduction of high income taxes and the inheritance tax, this group is called a "coalition."

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STRIKE SETTLEMENT ALASKA FISH GROUND

Washington, Feb. 20.—The agreement between Alaska miners and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, approved by the Alaska F. of L.

"A contract reached by such a process will prove most satisfactory to the reluctant compliance with the decision of a compulsory arbitration tribunal," said Mr. Green.

"Organized labor supported the anti-strike method of settling the dispute. Labor contributed many thousands of dollars to the strike fund."

"We are a fishing people; our food comes from the sea. We are grateful for the wisdom and sagacity displayed by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and the scale committee of the Alaska Fish Grounds."

"We hope that the industrial peace which will be established in the anchorage region, as the result of the settlement of the strike, will be permanent and constructive, and of great benefit to the community."

TAXI DRIVERS JOIN UNION

San Francisco, Feb. 20.—More than 100 drivers for the Yellow Cab company joined the Taxi Drivers' union.

The union is a part of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and is organized to protect the interests of taxi drivers.

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ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR CAUSED A BILLION LOSS

New York, Feb. 20.—Strike losses last year were of minor importance, as compared with fatalities and accidents, according to a report by William H. Cameron, managing director of the National Safety Council.

More than \$1,000,000,000 was charged off by industry to 300,000,000 productive working days lost in 1925.

"Our 1925 statistics," he said, "show that during the year 87,000 men, women and children were killed in accidents on the streets, in the home and in industrial workshops. Of this number 21,000 were killed by automobiles, 25,000 fatally injured at work and 41,000 killed in public places other than the streets."

"Today our big problem is to convince employers that accident prevention must be a major part of their program. We know that most of the fatalities in factories can be eliminated."

Mr. Cameron said many agencies are aiding in the reduction of automobile and other accidents, "but there has been no corresponding aid to the aviation industry to the terrible toll that accidents take every year."

COMPENSATION BILLS OPPOSED BY EMPLOYERS

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Employers are opposed to amendments to the state compensation law, now pending in the senate.

The amendments, recommended by Governor Miller, would increase the weekly compensation from \$20 to \$25.

Another bill would extend compensation to the dependent family of an injured worker, specifically defined in the present law.

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MINERS' LONG STRIKE ENDS; WORKERS' SOLIDARITY WINS

Philadelphia, Feb. 20.—The five and one-half months' anthracite strike has been settled by the mine workers and the operators, after repeated efforts to reach a common ground.

The operators receded from their demand for compulsory arbitration. The check-off system is provided in section 4 of the agreement.

The agreement is for five years. The mine workers have won their point for negotiations between the parties directly interested, rather than refer the matter to the arbitrator.

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INSURANCE BY UNIONS IS NATURAL EXTENSION

Washington, Feb. 20.—The railway labor bill, approved by a majority of railroad managers and organized shop workers, has been reported favorably by the senate.

The bill provides that boards of adjustment shall be created by agreement between the carrier and the employees. Disputes not otherwise settled shall be referred to a board of arbitration.

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